

**FINANCE COMMITTEE****Town of Grafton**

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**Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the articles prepared for the
Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 08, 2017****Article 1**

Finance Committee recommends acceptance of the printed annual and any other reports.

Article 2

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 2.

Article 3

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 3 in the amount of \$808,968.00.

This article provides the Town's share of the net operating cost of the Blackstone Valley Regional School District for FY18 and reflects a slight increase in enrollment of Grafton students.

Article 4

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 4 in the amount of \$53,401.00.

This appropriation will fund the principal and interest cost for FY18 to be incurred by Blackstone Valley Regional School District for its capital expansion project.

Article 5

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 5 in the amount of \$58,758,324.00.

The proposed budget for FY18 is funded by anticipated revenues and available funds.

It represents a \$1,969,197.00 or 3.5% increase over the FY2017 budget. This budget is the result of significant effort and review among the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and Committees. The Finance Committee believes that this process has produced a responsible budget that supports all Town departments and services.

Article 6

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 6 in the amount of \$498,393.00.

This article allows the Town to receive Chapter 90 funds as a reimbursement for projects accepted by the provisions of the Transportation Bond Bill. The spending of these funds is under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

Finance Committee Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting of May 08, 2017

Article 7

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 7 as written.

This article allows the Board of Selectmen to conduct routine Town business.

Article 8

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 as written.

This is the annual reauthorization of revolving accounts.

Article 9

Finance Committee recommends passing Article 9 as written.

The Town must have a preliminary library design approved to apply for reimbursement from the Commonwealth for a portion of library construction costs by June 17, 2017.

Article 10

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 10 as written.

Finance Committee supports the concept of this proposal. The Grafton Public Library Planning & Building Committee is expected to apply for a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) that could defray the requested \$16,597,997 construction and building expense up to 45.5%. Authorization to raise and appropriate \$16,597,997 should be contingent upon the confirmed receipt of the grant from the MBLC. Finance Committee understands that this article will be amended at Town Meeting to reflect such a contingency.

Article 11

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11 as written.

The current DPW building is more than 70 years old and realistically is at least 20 years past its useful life. There are operational and efficiency challenges. The proposed building has been designed by Weston & Sampson, a reputable firm, based on a detailed assessment of the Town's needs over the next 50 years. Delaying replacement of the facility is not practical from a functional standpoint nor is it fiscally responsible, as building costs will only continue to rise.

Article 12

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 in an amount not to exceed \$3 million.

This article will allow the Town to rebuild the two pump stations, which are 40 or more years old, with modern equipment. Neither of these stations is reliable nor can they be maintained any longer; parts have become virtually impossible to find.

Article 13

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13 as written with a 4-3 vote.

This article will provide a Special Education Stabilization fund to assist in defraying the cost of unforeseen special education expenses.

Finance Committee Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting of May 08, 2017**Article 14**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 14 as written with a 4-3 vote.

Finance Committee understands that there will be a source-of-funding amendment on Town Meeting floor. Finance Committee supports the creation of the Special Education Stabilization Account provided the funding source is changed to the Stabilization Fund from Free Cash.

Article 15

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 15.

The article seeks to fund the FY18 Capital Plan as submitted by the Town Administrator and Department Heads. The proposed list addresses the needs of various Town departments and does so in a financially responsible manner.

Article 16

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 16 as written.

It is important that the Town protect the wages of our Call Fire Department fire fighters in case of injury while in service to the Town.

Article 17

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 17 as written.

This article allows the Treasurer/Collector to conduct routine Town business.

Article 18

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 18 in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00.

This article allows funds to be added to the Unemployment Compensation Account.

Article 19

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 19 as written.

This article is an annual authorization to request FY17 WRTA funding of transportation services.

Article 20

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 20 as written.

This represents fair and adequate compensation for the additional work required to manage town elections. Funds for this article will be voted at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 21

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 21.

It is the understanding of the Finance Committee that this article will be passed over since there are no items to sell at this time.

Article 22

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 22 as written.

These parcels are considered to be of strategic importance to future development within the Town.

Finance Committee Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting of May 08, 2017**Article 23**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 23 as written.

This article is a required transfer of funds from Community Preservation Committee (CPC) revenues into an Operating budget account. This is necessary for the CPC to conduct routine business in FY18.

Article 24

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 24 as written.

This article authorizes the CPC to make the FY18 principle and interest payment on the bond issued for the Pell Farm property. This is the 9th payment made towards the 20 year bond commitment.

Article 25

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 25 as written.

This article authorizes the CPC to make the FY18 principle and interest payment on the \$1.1 million bond issued for the renovation of the Grafton Town House. This is the 3rd payment made towards the 20 year bond commitment.

Article 26

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 26 as written in the amount of \$16,776.00.

This article raises and appropriates \$16,776.00 to fund the reimbursement of retiring employees for unused sick and vacation time per Town By-Laws.

Article 27

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 27 as written.

This article provides acceptance of additional hydrants to the Town's hydrants list from the Grafton Water District.

Article 28

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 28 as written.

This is a housekeeping article to comply with the name change of the form it is referring.

Article 29

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 29 as written.

This is a housekeeping article to simplify common processes.

Article 30

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 30 as written.

This is a housekeeping article to simplify common processes.

Article 31

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 31 as written.

This is a housekeeping article to simplify common processes.

Finance Committee Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting of May 08, 2017**Article 32**

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 32 as written.
This is a housekeeping article to simplify common processes.

Article 33

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 33 as written.
This is necessary in order to ensure that the Town remains eligible for state funding for the Fisherville Mill Smart Growth Overlay District.

Article 34

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 34 as written.
This rezones a portion of the 40-acre parcel at 42 Institute Road to create a 40-acre parcel attractive for large-scale commercial development, and includes that parcel in the Chapter 43D Priority Development zoning district.

Article 35

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 35 as written.
The moratorium is needed due to ambiguities and uncertainties in the law and the lack of state regulations. By the time the moratorium expires in November 2018, the law will have been clarified and regulations issued, and the Town will have adopted the necessary zoning.

Article 36

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 36 as written.
The stretch code requires new buildings to be more energy-efficient, and is necessary to qualify Grafton as a Green Community, which makes Grafton eligible for more state funding.

Article 37

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 37 as written.
This Article adopts a bylaw that furthers the Town's commitment to environmental sustainability by eliminating the use of thin-film single-use carryout bags by businesses 3,000 square feet or larger. The proposed bylaw is endorsed by the Board of Health and Grafton Land Trust.